

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Armenia

MAAAM002

30/April/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010



Volunteers collecting money. Photo: Armenian Red Cross

In brief

Programme outcome: The National Society programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of the Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with the enabling action one to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programme(s) summary:

The programs implemented by the National Society are in line with the strategic priorities and annual plan of Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) and directed at the disaster risk reduction, health and care and resource mobilization activities.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 350,548 of which CHF 324,023 (92 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 208,171 (64 per cent) of the budget.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached:

Programme/project	Target group	Number of people reached
Disaster management	schoolchildren, teachers, volunteers, community members	93,000
Health and Care		6,215
Social welfare	elderly refugees, lonely elderly, children living in dormitories coming from refugee families, volunteers	725

HIV/AIDS	IDUs, schoolchildren, young people	4,620 – directly 300,000 – indirectly, through public events ¹
TB - with focus on MDR TB	Regular and MDR TB patients	870
Resource Mobilisation	volunteers and RB/TB Chairmen	200
Total:		399,415

Our partners:

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, IFRC Climate Change Center; number of international organisations such as: Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), GTZ, DIPECHO, “World Vision” Armenia, Caritas, OXFAM GB, UN agencies, MSF, Global Fund, Mission East Elly Lily and Company, American Peace Corps; Armenian authorities: Armenian Rescue Service, National Survey for Seismic Protection, Crisis Management State Academy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, National Statistical Service, National Tuberculosis Program agency, Shirak regional Rescue Service, “LORE” rescue team NGO.

A long-term cooperation has been established with the leading mobile operator VivaCell-MTS. A number of Partnerships were established with local companies, such as Ashtarak kat, Arzni kat (dairy producing companies). Armenian Red Cross has also been actively involved in the works of the Network of Volunteer Involving organizations initiated by the UNV.

Context

More than a decade of dramatic transition affected not only Armenia’s socio-economic life, but its institutional structures, economic and even cultural links. Despite reform programmes in Armenia aimed at market economy and democratic political mechanisms, the country has experienced declining access to public and social services. Economic vulnerabilities have been accentuated by the financial crisis and global recession, and the overall economic situation has rapidly deteriorated. The crisis affected Armenia through declining remittances, slowing trade (due to weak external demand and low metal prices). In addition, the on-going blockade related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and high rates of emigration threaten social stability and undermine sustainable economic growth.

As a land-locked country with limited natural resources, environmental degradation is another major factor affecting the economy. Weak institutional, administrative, and regulatory mechanisms have resulted in a number of environmental problems including distorted and inefficient exploitation of natural resources, energy instability, extensive air, water and land pollution and inadequate waste disposal systems. Pressures on agricultural lands and forests are likely to grow with the gradual degradation of rural infrastructure, decreasing living standards of rural population, and limited capacity of individual farmers to buy farm inputs. Some of the social challenges are being addressed by the authorities, but at a local level the authorities do not have capacity and resources to meet the needs in the communities across the country.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the RA, out of the 500,000 registered elderly people in Armenia, approximately 50,000 are lonely. Many of them live in extreme poverty, surviving only on the pension provided by the government. Social, medical and psychological assistance is provided through the social security system to 10,000 of the neediest elderly people from the 50,000 mentioned above. Social assistance is intrinsic to the services which aim to overcome, or alleviate the difficulties of people living in harsh conditions, as well as to meet their basic needs and help integrate them in to the society.

¹ 2 million subscribers of the leading mobile operator who received bulk SMSs.

Situation for the vulnerables remains unfavourable even becoming more critical due to the economic crisis which affected the vulnerable people the most making them more vulnerable and dependant. These are mainly the lonely elderly, unemployed, refugees, families with low income, large families the members of which are unemployed. Moreover, the global financial crisis has led to a sharp increase in unemployment in Armenia. There is a high increase in prices which even more burdens the situation of vulnerable.

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome(s)

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning
Component outcome 1: The Armenian Red Cross has effective tools for strengthening disaster preparedness and better prepared rapid response teams to respond to disasters operatively.
Programme component 2: Community preparedness
Component outcome 1: Effective tools for strengthening disaster preparedness of the communities in high risk areas are in place through organizing VCAs and disaster risk reduction activities.
Component outcome 2: Vulnerability of communities to disasters has been decreased through public awareness and educational campaigns carried out by the National Society.

No funds allocated for implementation of component outcome 1

Programme component 2: Outcome 1:

In Disaster Management, community preparedness the National Society implemented several projects supported by international donors.

“Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” project funded by DIPECHO

Armenian Red Cross started the implementation of “Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus” project in April 2010. The project is co-funded by European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), Danish and Icelandic Red Cross in a consortium with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Nine communities and 32 schools of Shirak region were selected as target for the implementation of the project. The beneficiaries of the project are approximately 44,900 people of the nine communities, among them 14,963 schoolchildren and their relatives.

The project has four directions:

1. Build the strategy and capacity on disaster preparedness and disaster response in the target communities of Shirak Marz of Armenia;
2. Increase the awareness and preparedness level of targeted schools regarding disaster risk reduction and climate change and encourage people through their children to take non-structural mitigation steps towards reducing the vulnerability of their families to natural disasters;
3. Coordinate cross-sector interaction, coordination, methods and actions developed in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at local and regional level;
4. Enhance the cooperation in South Caucasus and record, consolidate and pass on the lessons learnt during the programme to stakeholders at regional, national and international levels.

Achievements:

- Vulnerability and capacity (VCA) reports were developed for each of 9 communities. With Shirak Regional Rescue Service, Disaster Preparedness and Response plan of action per each community was developed.
- Nine Community Teams (CT) were formed in Shirak region consisting of 180 members who then participated in training sessions and a simulation drill. Moreover, special uniforms and equipments for 180 members of 9 community teams have been distributed.
- One-day workshop on Climate Change and DRR was organized in Shirak region.
- Educational materials on DRR, climate change (focus on extreme weather and

adaptation mechanisms) and non-structural earthquake mitigation were printed and distributed to targeted 32 schools, 9 communities and stakeholders.

- For 150 teachers from beneficiary 32 schools of Shirak region Training of Trainers was organized.
- Each trained teacher from targeted 32 schools organized local trainings with 100 pupils according to the methodology and special handbooks that have been provided to them. As a result all pupils (over 14,900) took part in the trainings, during the training educational materials were distributed to each pupil as well.
- Pupils developed their Family Disaster Plan. After, in all targeted 32 schools in-school competitions were organized based on Family Disaster Plan prepared by pupils. After, Family Disaster Plan final regional competition and public event dedicated to 7th December was organized.
- Regional Coordination Platform was formed which was co-chaired by Shirak regional authorities and Armenian Red Cross Society. Also, stakeholder mapping has been implemented in Shirak region. The National society developed jointly with Shirak regional and local authorities, as well as other NGOs, the first DRR Regional Coordination Commission Regulation.
- Three representatives of Armenian Red Cross Society took part in DIPECHO regional cooperation meetings which twice were organized in Georgia.

“Disaster Risk Management” project financed by GTZ Armenia²

- The National Society established volunteer based community disaster response teams in 9 targeted communities.
- Armenian Red Cross Society organized a number of activities; among them were a basic “Disaster Risk Management” workshop in all 11 of the project’s targeted communities from Tavush and Lori regions as well as a two days “Disaster Management Planning” workshop in 9 targeted communities. Also there were round table discussions on the Disaster Management related legislation of Armenia in Tavush and Lori regions with the objective to raise and strengthen the knowledge and preparedness level of coping with disasters.
- For community teams Armenian Red Cross conducted a Study Tour in Tavush and Lori regions, exploring the fire fighters’ stations to establish the practices for experience sharing and networking.
- The National Society was deeply involved in development of Disaster Management Planning Guidelines with GTZ international experts.

Programme component 2: Outcome 2:

“Disaster Preparedness in Schools” with support of the International Federation and funding by Norwegian Red Cross

Armenian Red Cross Society has implemented three mini-projects titled “Disaster Preparedness in Schools” with the support of **the International Federation** and funding by Norwegian Red Cross.

- Disaster Preparedness” training was organised for about 60 RC volunteers.
- “Children Quiz” contest preceded with five days seminars on disaster preparedness was organised for students of 14 Yerevan schools followed by the contest between school teams.
- Special seminars entitled “Earthquake” were organized for school students. Special seminars on Disaster Preparedness, Earthquake and Evacuation were organized for teachers of targeted schools, after which evacuations practice runs were conducted in all of the targeted schools.
- Educational posters, booklet, manuals and handbooks were printed and distributed to the targeted schools in order to raise people’s awareness on disaster.
- The students involved in all above mentioned seminars took part in non-structural mitigation activity titled “Family Disaster Plan”. All the students received special checklist

² Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

as a guide to develop their Family Disaster Plan with their family members, using the educational materials and checklist received.

“Climate Change” project supported by the International Federation and funded by Netherlands Red Cross

Climate Change pilot project supported by **the International Federation and funded by Netherlands Red Cross** was started on the first of March. Within the scope of the project:

- Climate Change assessment report for Armenia has been developed.
- 10400 copies of educational booklet and 1200 copies of poster on Climate change have been developed and printed.
- A meeting was organised with the Armenian Red Cross Headquarters staff to introduce the issue of climate change, how it has evolved during the past years, its consequences and further developments. One of the aims was also to promote the cooperation between departments regarding the issue and encourage them to integrate the issue into the awareness-related activities.

Renovation of Lusarat community school financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Armenian Red Cross Society with the financial support of JICA started the renovation of the Lusarat community’s school where 150 pupils of middle classes study. Armenian Red Cross Society will monitor the whole process and the head of Lusarat community is responsible for further maintenance of the renovated school. The renovation will be finished in 2011 and 150 pupils will have the opportunity to study in proper conditions.

Health and Care

Programme purpose
Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
Programme component 1: Social Welfare
Component outcome 1: Capacities of Red Cross staff and volunteers to provide focused and responsive social support to local communities have strengthened.
Component outcome 2: Number of targeted population have improved their social conditions and received psychological support.
Component outcome 3: 125 children living in dormitories have received educational session from the volunteers and participated in cultural events and their integration process into the society has been supported.
Component outcome 4: Armenian Red Cross branches have mobilised local resources to sustain social services for vulnerable communities.
Programme component 2: HIV/AIDS
Component outcome 1: Further HIV infections have been prevented through peer education and community mobilization.
Component outcome 2: HIV care, treatment, and support is expanded.
Component outcome 3: HIV stigma and discrimination has been reduced among general population.
Component outcome 4: Armenian Red Cross Society capacities to deliver and sustain scaled-up HIV programme are strengthened.
Programme component 3: TB with focus on MDR TB (budget not covered)
Component outcome 1: Care, psychosocial support and direct observations are provided to the most vulnerable people affected with MDR TB thus promoting their treatment and minimizing the consequences of disease, the spread of disease is prevented through community awareness campaigns on TB, MDR TB and TB/HIV.

Programme component 1: Social Welfare

The youth volunteers continued providing psychosocial assistance to the older refugees through weekly visits. In order to reduce the social exclusion of the older refugees a number of social events were organized: evening gatherings, visits to culturally important sites and visits to the theatres, etc. Food and hygiene parcels were distributed to 400 older refugees.

There has been a high inflow of young people to Armenian Red Cross Society who want to become volunteers. This was a significant achievement of the dissemination activities carried out within the framework of the programme. The majority of the new volunteers registered for volunteering in “Psycho-social support to elderly people” program. Another good trend is the new wave of volunteerism as along with the increase in number of volunteers there is also a variety of age groups wanting to volunteer or bringing their children (aged 13-15) to be involved in the National Society activities.

Due to the skilled and committed volunteers the psycho-social activities were successful: 125 children living in the dormitories (collective centres) regularly had assistance with their school homework as well as support to improve their English, Russian, Geography and singing skills. The integration excursions and cultural events with the involvement of their peers from schools were very effective for their socialization process.

Programme component 2: HIV/AIDS

Component outcome 3: HIV stigma and discrimination has been reduced among general population.

HIV prevention – Time for choice program

Along with other effective tools (television, public events, etc.), Armenian Red Cross Society used internet and text messaging as assets to reach the general population. The methods are innovative and proved to be effective in raising awareness about HIV and AIDS and especially in drawing the attention of general public towards HIV and AIDS related issues. Text messaging campaigns, both the mass distribution of HIV information on World Aids Day and the activity of sending messages as a sign of joining the fight against AIDS, were alarms for the public to pay necessary attention and understand the importance of the issue. Taking into account the popularity of Internet, the National Society widely used this asset to reach young people. Online groups were created in such social sites, as Facebook, Odnoklassniki, which encouraged active discussions and forums. Another effective activity was placing HIV and AIDS information containing flash messages in odnoklassniki.ru social site, reaching more than 300,000 people. These new methods enable the National Society to spread information on disease and its prevention mechanisms in a wide and effective manner, reaching more people. This activity greatly contributed to raising the awareness of general population on the issue and also contributed to engage new volunteers. These activities will be continued, due to the obvious effectiveness and the good working relations established between Armenian Red Cross and mobile operators and other related companies.

Public raised their knowledge on the disease and its prevention mechanisms through

- 16 talk shows “Let’s talk about AIDS” organized in regions and a national TV talk show broadcast on the AR TV channel,
- 27 film screenings on HIV and AIDS topics organized in 13 regions,
- HIV related messages placed on social sites,
- Concert on Wheels organized in cities of six regions,
- six social ads that were filmed on HIV and AIDS transmission and stigma
- broadcast on two TV channels (Erkir Media, H2),
- billboard campaign: 13 billboards with HIV information designed and placed in the streets of Yerevan.

Additionally, 150 people participated in the organised Candlelight March procession. Majority of the participants were from the countryside, which also helps promote and develop HIV and AIDS activities across Armenian regions.

“We play against AIDS” Basketball tournament was also organized across Armenian regions with participation of 235 people.

Gala concert was organised in October with participation of 500 people, in cooperation with the famous Armenian rock-band “The Beautified Project”. The charity concert was carried out under the “Music against AIDS” banner, in Yerevan, in the National Puppet Theatre named after Hovhannes Tumanyan.

On World AIDS day a number of events were organised:

- open lessons at four schools with participation of 162 schoolchildren,
- information campaigns (info materials and condoms were distributed),
- sending bulk text messages to 2.000.000 subscribers with HIV information
- Concert “Youth Against AIDS” with participation of 530 people.

All the mentioned activities and events contributed to the raising the awareness of the population on HIV and AIDS.

Harm Reduction among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)

Within the framework of “Harm Reduction” project, financed by the Global Fund and Premier Recipient of which is Mission East and implemented by the Armenian Red Cross Society Health Department (secondary recipient), the injecting drug users of Vanadzor city, Lori region were targeted. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability of IDUs towards HIV, Hepatitis and other blood borne and sexually transmitted infections. The project was designed to include 90 beneficiaries but the number of beneficiaries reached 116. The programme provides voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), legal, social/ psychological counselling.

To support the overall goal of the project, 116 beneficiaries were regularly provided with means of prevention, including disposable syringes, alcohol pads and condoms through three outreach workers involved in the project or at assembly places. They were also provided with training sessions and appropriate education materials on safe injection, overdose prevention and safe sex behaviour. The patients also received psychological counselling to help overcome stigma and discrimination issues. Three outreach workers were trained and directly monitored by the doctor.

Programme component 3: TB with focus on MDR TB

Component outcome 1: Care, psychosocial support and direct observations are provided to the most vulnerable people affected with Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis thus promoting their treatment and minimizing the consequences of disease. Spreading of the disease is prevented through community awareness campaigns on TB, MDR TB and TB/HIV.

During the reporting period the Armenian Red Cross Society Health Department continued Stop Multi Drug Resistant TB programme financed by Eli Lilly and Company. 30 MDR TB patients under the outpatient phase of the treatment were targeted.

A number of peer educators have been prepared via Training of Trainers who coordinated the work of support groups and were taught to disseminate correct TB information among their peers and provide psychological assistance based on peer-to-peer principle.

Through the financial support of the Global Fund the Armenian Red Cross Society Health Department implements an important component of Strengthening National TB Control Programme – provision of social support to regular TB patients throughout the country. The project is implemented in cooperation with the National Tuberculosis Program Office of the Ministry of Health. The overall goal of the project is to improve patients’ adherence to treatment. To achieve this goal, monthly food parcels and hygiene kits are delivered to the patients as incentives. On the whole, 4200 parcels and 4200 kits were delivered during the reporting period.

Dissemination is also part of the project and for this purpose information/ education materials were developed. They are provided to the TB cabinets all over the country who then distribute the materials to patients, family members and contacts.

On 24 March a public awareness campaign was held in the three busiest locations of Yerevan to mark the World TB Day. The campaign was organized through joint efforts of all the actors working in the field of TB. Booths with posters proclaiming TB slogans were placed in the mentioned locations and information materials were distributed among general public. Booklets, brochures and information materials were also distributed across Armenian Institutions and Universities. "Right and wrong conceptions on TB" posters were placed in Universities. On March 24 a concert concert to fight TB and disseminate information about the disease and its prevention was also organized in one of the lively parks in Yerevan through the financial support of MSFF, NTP and World Vision Armenia.

110 patients received DOTS plus (Direct Observation Therapy Short-Course), were provided with social support in the form of food parcels and hygiene kits as incentives for treatment adherence, ensuring psychological assistance and nursing activities. One of the core elements of the project is home-based care of smear sputum positive patients and all the above mentioned support is provided at home by the National Society nurses.

Organisational Development

Programme purpose

Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component: Resource Mobilization

Component outcome 1: Armenian Red Cross Society has developed resource mobilization mechanism and tools to ensure continuous activity within the National Society.

Component outcome 2: Armenian Red Cross Society has developed a mechanism and tools for the promotion of membership and recruitment, appraisal and reward of volunteers to assist programs relying on volunteers, as well as on financial inputs.

Component outcome 3: Armenian Red Cross Society has sustainable and transparent financial management system.

Program Component: Resource Mobilization

Component outcome 1: Armenian Red Cross Society has developed resource mobilization mechanism and tools to ensure continuous activity within the National Society.

One of the strategic objectives of the Armenian Red Cross Society in the area of organizational development is to minimize the dependency of the National Society on external assistance. More concretely, the society has been working towards developing skills and tools for raising funds locally. As a result of effective fundraising campaigns about 1000 UDS was raised. As a result of productive cooperation with the Zvartnots International Airports about 3000 USD was raised.

Fundraising plan for national and local levels were developed based on the recommendation of Bulgarian Red Cross which was provided after the peer support project between Armenian Red Cross Society and Bulgarian Red Cross with the support of the International Federation. The plan focuses branch development through step by step approach including; training Regional Branches staff and volunteers, finding partners and stakeholders for the programs directed at the needs of the local community, designing and organizing mini social projects and PR campaigns and reporting back to the society and donors.

As a call to the International Federation's appeal for financial support to Haiti the Armenian Red Cross Society launched a SMS campaign. 651700 AMD was collected through SMS campaigns in cooperation with two operators and television networks. Additional sum of 145980AMD was raised by the volunteers through direct fundraising in the streets of the capital.

Four Regional Branches have successfully cooperated with Regional administration and local authorities in assessing the needs of regional communities, identifying the most vulnerable

groups and designing and implementing joint projects directed at the needs of the most vulnerable.

A donor meeting was organized in Armavir with “Arzni kat” dairy product company to discuss the possible cooperation. “Arzni kat” also donated eggs to the summer tent camp organized in August for children living in the dormitories.

There has been a demonstrated increase in interest from the mass media, with more than 20 articles being published across newspapers and websites, increased television coverage, and unsolicited requests for information made by members of the press.

The “Red Cross for You and You for the Red Cross” program funded by SOS fund aimed at setting up a communication system allowing a mechanism for reporting to all levels of society about what the ARCS is and does, leading to a higher profile of the NS amongst the general population and building up the communication capacities of the National Society. The implementation of the program, especially the image raising and fund raising activities such as placing of billboards and charity boxes, fund raising campaigns, advertisements, sms campaigns, talk shows, radio and TV broadcasts and use of PR materials, contributed to the dissemination of the ARCS work creating visibility among public and providing a better image of the ARCS work, thus resulting in a more effective cooperation between the ARCS, the communities and different structures (private and governmental).

New partnerships and communication channels were formed between the ARCS and a number of local and international businesses, corporations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, communities and Mass Media resulting in a greater in-country fund raising capacity allowing the society to be able to fund more of its domestic activities and extend its programs to cover more people in need.

Component outcome 2: Armenian Red Cross Society has developed a mechanism and tools for the promotion of membership and recruitment, appraisal and reward of volunteers to assist programs relying on volunteers, as well as on financial inputs.

The capacity of the National Society was increased in terms of human resources, particularly volunteers from headquarters as well as regional/territorial branches through organizing skill development courses such as article writing, photography, survey skills, fundraising, and leadership skills. The skills developed by the volunteers and staff members will be able to be used across every programme in Armenian Red Cross, contributing both to the actual functioning of the projects and also to reporting and publicizing them.

In the view of the capacity building, the staff members of the National Society participated in some workshops/seminars organised both within the movement and by other partner organisations acting in the field.

The head of Disaster Management and Population Movement (DM and PM) department took part at the European IDRL Training and Consultation Workshop organized in Vienna from 10 to 12 of May.

Conference named “Understanding Risks” was organized by the World Bank in Washington where the Head of DM and PM department took part. He was a panellist of the Community Based Risk Assessment session and shared ARCS experiences and lessons learned in the field. On October he also participated in European Zonal Disaster Risk Reduction workers group meeting and Zonal DM meeting in Budapest.

Health and Youth participated ERNA, ECM and Youth Commission meetings, at Monitoring and Evaluation workshop, HIV proposal writing workshop and a number of HIV/AIDS conferences organised for the local and international organizations.

Component outcome 3: Armenian Red Cross Society has sustainable and transparent financial management system.

In addition, to improve the financial management and ease the production of regular accounting reports, new accounting software 1C was installed and the accounting department staff was trained for its use. The new software makes some calculations (like payroll and tax) much easier

to do, generates some automatic reports for tax authorities and is in general more flexible than the previous one when it comes to updating it for the legislation changes. The overall record – keeping and reports generating processes are much more user-friendly than those of the previous one.

Moving from working advance to cash transfer system in working with the Federation is another contribution to the development of the financial management and reporting capacity of the Armenian Red Cross. Through application of the Cash Transfer system the National Society gets more financial management and reporting responsibility, which contributes to development of its systems.

Constraints or Challenges

As a result of limited funding no activity was implemented for improving Armenian Red Cross Society Disaster Preparedness and Response Structure and strengthening skills and knowledge of rapid response teams' volunteer-members. This produces inactivity and low commitment from the volunteers. Also, there is a need to revise and practice Contingency Plan of the national society, as it sets up certain definition of roles and responsibilities, reaction mechanisms, plan of action, etc and needs to be operational. The national society has to advocate for integration of its Contingency Plan in to the Government's. To overcome the situation several volunteer-instructors from Yerevan were involved in the activities (mostly school preparedness and community trainings) implemented within the projects.

Additional funds are needed in order to implement more activities in more communities and in order to have better results and outcomes. It is also important to plan more strategically and design more long-term programs.

Working in partnership

In close cooperation with Armenian Rescue Service, Crisis Management State Academy, National Survey for Seismic Protection and Ministry of Science and Education of RA educational campaigns and simulation evacuation were held in different schools.

As the result of long term cooperation and coordination of Red Cross disaster management activities with the Government, presently the National Society in close cooperation with Armenian Rescue Service are developing new MoU to be signed with the Emergency Situations Ministry.

In order to respond to the activated landslide which fully destroyed the state significance road Yerevan- Ijevan which is one of the main roads connecting Armenia and Georgia on its 117 km Red Cross Tavush regional branch representatives went to the area to meet with regional authorities representatives to estimate the situation and defined is there a need for our intervention or no.

In the framework of "HIV prevention among IDUS in Lori Marz" program HCAVO (Helsinki Citizen Assembly in Vanadzor Office) implements legal consultancy contributing to the program implementation process.

As one of the components of the project was to strengthen the resource mobilization capacity of the National Society, this activities aimed to establish and maintain better working relationships with local communities, local donors, private businesses, mass media and the government. Thus the National Society continuously pursued possibilities for cooperating and coordinating its efforts with partners. To this end a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Ministry of Education and Science to support the National Society school activities in raising schoolchildren's awareness on HIV Prevention, First Aid, Disaster preparedness and Red Cross principles, IHL, and human values, and facilitate further cooperation.

The cooperation based on the previously signed MOUs (with Ministry of Youth and Sport, VivaCell-MTS, etc) continued and was strengthened.

A long term cooperation agreement has been formed with Zvartnots International Airports, whereby fundraising boxes have been placed in the airport, along with posters, flyers, etc.

The Red Cross youth volunteers have enhanced and strengthened cooperation with other National Society youth, other youth organizations on both local and international level through defining the common needs and mobilizing efforts in addressing them. Through partnership meetings and round table discussions as well as through youth volunteer exchange programs young volunteers shared their experience and best practices.

Good working relationships continued with the Municipality and Local Authorities in organizing activities for Children and Lonely Elderly people living in the dormitories. Due to the volunteers resource mobilization efforts Arzni Kat (dairy production company) gave in-kind donation for the camp for the "Smiley Club" beneficiaries.

At the end of 2010 Armenian Red Cross established number of good partnerships with American Peace Corps (for implementation of two joint projects: HIV prevention SMS-hotline and Campaign for Healthy Food and Lifestyle) and Ashtarak Kat (for implementation of Health directed educational program).

The National Society is a member of ERNA, RC/RC Global Alliance on HIV and UNV initiated Network Volunteer Involving organizations, on the framework of which Armenian Red Cross actively participated in the developing the Law of Volunteering to be presented to RA's government.

Contributing to longer-term impact

During the implementation of VCA in Lori, Tavush as well as Shirak regions of Armenia the NS paid special attention to the gender issue trying to keep balance between male and female during the community based survey and workshops. As the result, overall, more than 50% of interviewees and participants involved were female.

Different national and regional level workshops, trainings, seminars and meetings were held during the year within the framework of all implemented programs/projects which were used also for information sharing and coordination aiming to avoid duplications.

The disaster risk reduction is indicated within the Government proposed "Sustainable Development Program 2008 - 2012" as priority. The aim of this program is to decrease the poverty level particularly in rural regions which have underdeveloped communication and road system, irrigating and health system, etc. For this, the activities carried out by the NS like implemented VCAs, Disaster Risk Management workshops and "Building Safer Local Communities in South Caucasus" project would highly contribute to the development of the regions thus making a supplementary effect to the government proposed program.

The renovation of Lusarat community's school will give pupils the opportunity to study in sufficient conditions which in turn will decrease community's social vulnerability.

Looking ahead

Based on reviewing the project in terms of evaluating, the work carried out, summing up the achieved results, understanding the challenges and deciding the most effective ways of reaching future objectives, the National Society will modify its activities accordingly and aim to:

- Promote the involvement of regional branches' key staff and volunteers in resource mobilization, HIV and AIDS, Psychosocial support, disaster risk reduction activities in regions.
- Design and implement social, cultural and educational activities for the children and lonely older people living in the dormitories.
- Direct all the National Society's communication and resource mobilization efforts in current projects to reach a larger scale of target populations and achieve a higher level of awareness of the Red Cross activities, as well as considering specific approaches to different target groups.
- Spread information materials to raise of general population on the National Society and its activities, using different innovative methods and other organizations' experiences within and outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- Continue to strengthen the human resource mobilisation through organising sustainable skills development courses for staff and volunteers.
- Develop further partnerships with the private sector
- Take the leading role in initiating joint activities for HIV infection prevention with related organizations in Armenia and promoting cooperation between them for realising bigger HIV infection prevention activities.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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